



Minutes

Mecklenburg County Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners

May 8, 2007

North Carolina
Mecklenburg County

The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in the Administrative Office Building Conference Room B at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Robert Patterson
John Barry
Bill Brawley
Owen Furuseth
Larry Huelsman
Laura McClettie
Scott McClure
Brad Pearce
Teresa Sharp
Jeffrey Tarte

Absent: James Brown
William Chandler
Mary Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Robert Patterson, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, after which, the following matters were addressed:

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

(1) **Introductions**
None

(2) **Proclamations and Awards**

- a. Lola Massad, Division Director, Community and Recreation Center Services, recognized Jenkins Michelle Wade, Recreation Specialist for being named Therapeutic Intern of the Year by NCRPA at the 2007 Annual Conference in March. Michelle completed her internship with the TR Division in 2006 while a student at Clemson University. She is now a full time employee for Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation working with At Risk Youth.
- b. Lola Massad also recognized Monica Best and Karen Noel for their program "Moka's Café" being named best TR Program of the Year by NCRPA at the March conference. Best and Noel coordinated this program for young women who have developmental disabilities. This ongoing program focuses on specific topics in socialization opportunities and is hosted in partnership with Starbucks who provide space and coffee for the young women.
- c. Don Seriff, Natural Resource Manager, presented an award from NC Audubon to Mecklenburg County naming them as an honorary warden of Audubon for their exemplary service in protection of our state's most important bird habitat and sanctuaries. Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation was honored for their extensive work on habitat preservation that supports birds and educational programs for the public about bird habitat and other wildlife in this urban environment. NC Audubon hopes to use this achievement as a model for how conservation and community can thrive hand in hand.

(3) **Public Appearance**
None

(4) **Appointments – Advisory Councils – Applicants**

- **Central Park District I:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley to defer appointment to the June PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner McClettie and approved unanimously.
- **Central Park District II:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClettie to reappoint Maggie Coleman and Brenda McMoore to a second term both expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **East Park District:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley to defer reappoints to the June PRC meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Equestrian:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to reappoint Bobby Martin to a second term expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Greenway:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to defer appointment to the June PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **North Park District:** Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to reappoint Gary Frankhauser, Bob Bauer and Mark Ahlstrom to second terms expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Northwest Park District:** Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to reappoint Eva Barber and Bill Jones to second terms expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Huelsman and approved unanimously.
- **Soccer:** Motion was made by Commissioner Huelsman to defer Soccer appointments and reappointments to the June PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Sharp and approved unanimously.
- **Therapeutic:** Motion was made by Commissioner Sharp to reappoint Peter Cowick, Cary Pickard and Donna Winter to second terms expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.

(5) **Public Hearings**
None

(6) **Advisory Council – Committee Reports**
None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(7) **Director's Report:**

- b. Director Jim Garges gave an update on the Metropolitan Section of the LSC Greenway as follows:
- Pappas Properties work in the Metro Section is up and out of the ground and moving forward at a good pace. It is the goal of Park and Recreation to keep up with them on our project.
 - Economic impact from the Metro Section is estimated at over \$273 million. This, combined with the fact that our Greenway is a part of this development, makes for a good private/public partnership.
 - Plans are to complete the entire stretch of the LSC Greenway up to CPCC by December, 2009.
 - The PowerPoint presentation to the BOCC updated the current cost for this stretch to \$43 million.
 - CMUD's sewer project from Baxter to Morehead should be complete by October, 2007 at which time Park and Recreation construction can begin.
 - The 18.2 million shortfall for the completion of the whole LSC GW project has been requested in the 2-year CIP and will be critical to the project.
 - Recent higher than expected bids for the uncapping forced a re-estimation of the project cost and a subsequent update the County Commissioners.
 - Commissioner Pearce expressed concern for planned parks that are experiencing cutbacks because there is not enough money from the original bond allocation and wants to make sure the citizens from other areas of Mecklenburg County do not feel their projects are going to be ignored.

- Commissioner Furuseth expressed concern that other Greenway sections are delayed or must wait for the next bond while the LSC GW section receives the “cadillac” share of funding.
 - Director Garges noted that you must balance cost to economic development. It is important to aggressively seek funding for all projects as well as to continue to seek partnerships such as with Home Depot and Target.
 - Commissioner Brawley asked what other project funding was requested in the 2-year CIP. Director Garges responded land acquisition and renovations are top priority.
 - Commissioner Tarte felt it important to factor in time delay and the compounding of the construction cost in future project estimates.
 - Jason Pauling, Greenway Planner, gave an update on Belmont to 12th Street. It should be late June or early July for a connection under the RR to Alexander Park. Also continue to work with Charlotte Housing Authority from 12th to 7th to make the Greenway a part of their project.
 - Gwen Cook, Greenway Planner, gave an update on the Urban Section, 7th to Morehead. There will be an uncapping of LSC event on June 13. CMUD will begin their relief sewer project from Baxter to Morehead. Trail construction is scheduled to begin behind Target and St. Mary’s Chapel.
- c. Lee Jones, Division Director, Capital Planning, reviewed the agenda document updating park bond projects.

CONSENT ITEMS

- (8) *Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to approve all consent items, (8 and 9) as submitted in the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.*

STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS

PARK COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS

- (9) Chair Patterson reminded the board elections for the PRC Executive Committee would be held at the June 12 meeting. The nominating committee will be made up of Chair Patterson, Commissioner Chandler and Commissioner McClettie.
- (10) Commissioner Furuseth inquired about a park sign for the Kirk Farm Fields in order to move forward with the opening celebration. Director Garges said it would be taken care of.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner McClure seconded by Commissioner Brawley and unanimously carried that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

PRC Monthly Meeting
August 14, 2007
6:00 PM Conference Room B
Administrative Office Building

Video archives of all meetings are on file in the Director’s office.